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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 15, 1992.

401 Main St., Vancouver. V6A 2T7 (604)665-2289

YOUR GUIDE TO

O Canada...
Glorious
& Free..

Modernizing
OUR SHARED VALUES

REFERENDUM



THE
HONORABLE
J. CROSBIE

GOVERNMENT ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

THE LETTER OF THE LAW

2

CANADA'S FIRST

Economic rights

Progress
on
overlap
and
duplication

The Constitution is the highest law in Canada. The exact wording is used to make or break challenges to all other laws in the country.

The exact wording is exactly what no one has in its entirety. Some say that it takes a great deal of time & effort for legal experts to get it all down. Others say this lack is deliberate..that hidden agendas are going full bore to make what will be argued in court leave us with less than is necessary AND more than we bargained for.

Right now it's a selling job. Millions are being spent to convince us that the "Proposed Constitutional Changes" are the best deal possible.

Reducing
Aboriginal
self-
government

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUES

As you read on, you won't find much in print (here) that applauds this deal. In every province, the premier is heading a gung-ho "yes" campaign, using hundreds of thousands of public dollars. Mulroney and his den, while crying 'the cupboard is bare' when slammed for cutting funding for women's centres (\$1.6M a year), scrapping the Charter Challenge program (\$2.5M a year) & passing Bill C-69 to kill several national programs like Medicare... the feds scraped over \$4M from the bottom of the barrel to print & distribute over 18 million copies of their "guide" to all of us. The medium is near-total saturation, to make this deal seem like the result of profound soul-searching & sacrifice for the benefit of "all Canadians"!

What we're being asked (told) to accept is that the NDP & Liberal & Conservative agendas have been put aside..are secondary to the future of Canada.



Mulroney is nationally labelled as the worst prime minister in the history of this country. Regardless of the will of the majority of Canadians, he rammed the "free" trade agreement through (57% of voters opposed), instituted the GST (85% of voters opposed) & passed bill C-69 to reduce federal funding of programs like Medicare to \$0 within 15 years (86% of voters opposed).

Because of our parliamentary system, the Tories have an absolute majority in Ottawa. They can pass anything into law. This is the reality that the Liberals & the NDP faced in Charlottetown. The First Ministers wheeled & dealt in back rooms, each trying to keep their heads above the mud of the Tory/big business agenda.

The most telling aspect is the linkage of the "social & economic union clauses". This is diametrically opposed to justice.

How can this deal promise "universal, accessible, portable, publically-administered health care" when C-69 is already law? How can it promise "adequate social services & benefits" while each province gets the right to "opt out" of any national program & the federal Tories have already begun to withdraw funds by limiting transfer payments?

The message behind the glowing propaganda is trust us.

Mulroney's message, delivered less than an hour after the accord was reached, was "Anyone opposed is an enemy of Canada." (Who's Canada?)

Before Meech Lake, supporters were predicting the end of Canada if it didn't pass, were saturating the media with dire warnings, called Elijah Harper "traitor".

The rights of women were purposely left out of the Canada Clause, then national offices of women's rights groups in Ottawa got phonecalls from the Minister in Charge of their funding, telling them to either support the deal or shut up..any opposition would get their public funding cut off. (Reported on CBC.)



Off the record, the rumor's true— on the record, the rumor's false.

Mulroney, after people started pointing out serious flaws in the deal, said on TV that "They complain but don't have any alternative." This is the most ignorant insult - alternatives (fair taxes, fair trade, solid alternatives to every scummy ploy since '84 by the Mulroney/corporate agenda) have been systematically ignored.

A 2-minute report on the morning news a few days ago brought a lot of this to a focus. Judy Rebick, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, confronted John Crosby & asked why women's rights weren't at the table in PEI. Crosby said, "If we had the women, we'd have to have the cripples & the coloureds too." Rebick reported this to the media. Crosby was then shown, not defending or apologizing, but attacking Rebick for having the gall/bad taste/(astonished honesty) to report what had been said by an elected official. He said her action was "disgusting"... "contemptable"... "beyond contempt".

S'matter Crosby - truth hurt?



Aside from all the flowery phrases and assurances that this deal is the result of incredible work, it's geared to being a perfect fit for the impending North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Much of the devolution of powers to the provinces and re-arrangement of gov't won't mean anything if no gov't can exercise these powers without ending up in international disputes with transnational interests.

We have to establish Canada as both fair and strong before hidden agendas get a chance to rear their ugly heads.

By PAULR TAYLOR

P.S.: If the referendum fails, the next step would have to be a constituent assembly...with people not worried about getting re-elected deciding what's best!

BATTERED WOMEN

Shelter for you and your children
Information about your options
Protection of other women
Another woman to talk to



If you are in need of food, clothing, free medical care, or help with lawyers, the courts or welfare, call us at Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (872-8212). If we're not able to help you, we will aid you in finding another group that may offer assistance.

Most of the services listed here operate with inadequate funding - you can offer your support by alerting your government representative to the fact that more funding must be provided if these services are to continue.

For further information, contact:
Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter
872-8212

\$ bingoo \$
CASH
 at
CARNECIE
 EVERY
6:30 Wed.



Autumn Finding

They happened upon a goshawk, wounded, in the road. It was so blood-speckled they couldn't make out the gray tawn line on its breast. She wanted him to set it down in the marshgrass, to help it die as it were, & be off.

"You are probably right," he said. "This bird has no soul or agony I can stretch upon a wire - nothing to hold us to it. Living or dead, it circles beyond the timberline of speculation..hurts for that which we cannot see."

She said nothing. She was sure of him. They lingered there unconsciously for some moments, marvelled at its strange cryings, wondered what they should do.

At last he said, "We can do nothing." Almost dead in the road, it did not look at them. It asked for nothing..it did not watch them go.

Gram

YOUR RIGHTS ON THE STREET

TIME: Monday, October 20. 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Carnegie Theatre, main floor.

GUEST: Jim Quail, Legal Services Society

"The cops are always stopping me & searching my pockets & backpack."

"They wuldn't even let her wait at the busstop - they said they'd throw her in Jail! IS THAT LEGAL?!"

If you have questions about your rights on the street, come to this event and get some answers. Jim Quail knows our community and he knows your rights!

(Free coffee served.)

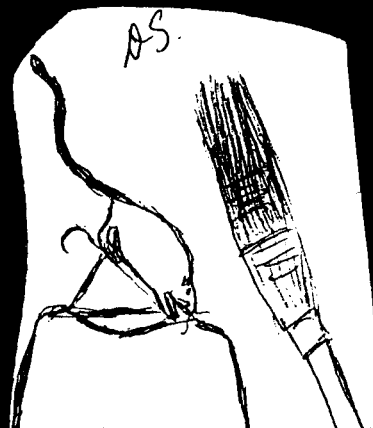
THE ARROGANT MOUSE

The arrogant grey mouse scared me the first time he boldly ran across my front room. It upset me to see him & his leavings in my kitchen.

He made me angry when I caught him eating my 'new' suit, which I had been considering returning to the shoppe. He did not even move when I went near him.

I bashed him with a broom as he dined on threads..& have been sorry ever since. I heard him squeal in pain as I killed.

Dora Sanders



STREET-WISE AND HOME-HAPPY

Drugs don't respect any borders, so why should residents, who are plagued by them?

That was the idea behind a protest march last Friday night, October 9, uniting two neighbourhoods across the Hastings border that divides the Downtown Eastside on the north from Strathcona on the south.

It was the first time residents of both neighbourhoods had joined forces against the rising tide of street drugs flooding the area. It's getting so children can't go to school without stepping over used needles or condoms, or having to detour around drug dealers doing their thing. Many seniors feel trapped inside their homes, unable even to go to the park, because they don't want to face that scene.

About 100 residents marched, many of them parents from Princess Place at Princess & Cordova, where more than 120 children live. The parents there have had to organize patrols in order to get their kids to school safely each morning, even though the school is only two short blocks away. Strathcona parents have been doing the same thing since last year. As the march proceeded up one side of Hastings & down the other, a number of seniors from the licensed premises joined them. "Thanks" said one. "I feel safer going home this way."

The marchers made it clear that they are not laying a moral trip on anyone. In fact many people feel that most illegal drugs should be decriminalized. The same goes for prostitution. The Carnegie Community Centre Association is on record as favouring co-op brothels where working women can earn a living in healthy & safe conditions & control their own business. Strathcona residents have been meeting for the past two years to come up with proposals for better education & social programs for street people. They formed a new Strathcona Residents Association last week to fight for these programs, among others.

But that doesn't mean residents want ^{5.} see street activities near where they live. Like any commercial business, these activities should be zoned into a non-residential area, where they can be carried out without bothering other people. Most of the working women have been very co-operative about moving when talked to by residents; many are parents themselves & say they wouldn't like to have trafficking going on in front of their own children. Even the drug dealers seem to understand the point. A number have told residents & Oppenheimer Park staff they would be willing to move if they were sure their customers would come, too.

The industrial area around the docks east of Campbell is better suited for this activity, and a "zone of tolerance" should develop there to allow the street scene to continue without hassle. That's all the residents are asking for.

Right now, the drug scene is centred at Hastings & Jackson. There are drug deals going on round-the-clock, noise & garbage, taxis bringing people around & taking them away. Within two blocks of that corner are at least seven social housing projects, with more than 1,000 seniors & children. They have a right to live in peace & security. People who have no children or who

live in big buildings with walls around them may not be aware of the concerns that others have, who live in unsafe hotels or in smaller houses & must contend with people shooting up on their back porches, washrooms or side yards.

The situation has been getting worse for a number of reasons. There are more drugs around, especially cocaine. The street scenes in the West End & Mt. Pleasant were driven out, without a thought where they might re-establish themselves. The same thing is happening on Granville Street right now. The drugs have gravitated down to Hastings Street, bounced around from Main & Hastings, to Oppenheimer Park, Strathcona School, McLean Park, & now Jackson & Hastings.

It's time to find a home for the street scene.

By MUGGS SIGURGEIRSON

SAY "NO" TO NAFTA

HANDS ACROSS BORDERS

On Sunday, October 18, an international meeting will happen at the Peace Arch at the Canada-U.S. border.

People from Canada, the States and Mexico will meet to give their voice to opposing the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement.

This rally is to make a strong and united statement for the media to broadcast in all 3 countries, timed to come before the elections in the States & before the referendum in our country.

A bus will be leaving from Carnegie at 10:30 in the morning, returning by 4:30-5:00. If you want to go, write your name on a sign-up sheet in Carnegie or use these directions:

- Take Skytrain to Scott Rd. Station;
- Free shuttlebus from Scott Road station will take you to Peace Arch Park. The bus will operate from 10:45 to 4:00 on Sunday.

About the People's Law School

The People's Law School was founded in 1972. We are a non-profit Society providing legal education to British Columbians.

We do this by:

- Free Law Classes
- Brochures
- Radio Spots
- Videos
- Justice Theatre
- Children's Summer Program

We work with seniors' groups, schools, community centres, colleges, immigrant serving organizations, women's groups, and others.

We also offer legal information services in Cantonese, Spanish, Punjabi, Polish, Italian, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.

For more information call or drop by and see us.



The People's Law School

150 - 900 Howe Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2M4

Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Phone: 688-2565 Fax: 688-2566

OCAP CALLS FOR "NO" VOTE
REJECTS THE "NAFTA CONSTITUTION"

The Provincial Council of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty has come out in support of a "NO" vote on October 26th. We reject phoney "unity" with politicians who have done nothing but destroy social programs, & generally put the boots to the poor. We see the Accord as one further attack on those we represent & a major step towards the free trade "level playing field."

We call for a vote that says "NO" to -

1. A Hierarchy of Rights (with the poor on the bottom)

The Canada Clause has "Canadians & their governments" committed to some rights but only "Canadians" committed to others... like gender equality.

The millions of poor people in Canada do not rate highly enough in the eyes of "our" leaders to get a spot in the Canada Clause. They are offered a finely phrased but unenforceable "Social Charter" that has been mixed in with the rights of the rich to 'economic freedoms' in a "Social and Economic Union."

2. The Wiping Out of National Standards & Social Programs

"This Deal has exclusive provincial jurisdiction enshrined in some vital areas of social policy (including labour market training & housing). Provincial gov. can opt out of national programs with compensation if they agree to adhere to "national objectives" (whatever they may be). Intergovernmental agreements MAY be renewed after a maximum of 5 years. Lest there be any doubt, the Canada Assistance Plan is specifically named here.

3. The Eleven White Men in Suits

It is impossible to read this Deal without being struck by all the blanks that have been left for the First Ministers to fill in at a later date. A special provision actually enshrines their annual gatherings. Just who are these characters?

The Men in Suits will play a pivotal 7. role in the future of the country yet they don't answer to any single electorate. How do you lobby the First Minister? No legislative committees exist that you can utilize to influence their deliberations. They horsetrade behind closed doors & emerge with "accords" that are strictly "take 'em or leave 'em." Any individual First Minister can deflect criticism of an aspect of a deal by acknowledging the imperfections but assuring his critics that things would have been far worse had not he been in there speaking to their interests.

The horsetrading of this unaccountable body provides just the right political climate to facilitate the process of levelling social programs down to the lowest common denominator.

We have yet to see anyone on the "YES" side show any real enthusiasm for the Deal on its own terms. "It's not perfect but it's as good as it gets", is the message. In line with this reasoning, the defence of the "YES" position consists of a series of "you have a point BUTs". Most common among those are:

A. "But you surely can't be on the same side as Preston Manning"

We admit that marking the same spot on the ballot as Manning is distasteful but, frankly, better that than be a fifth wheel on Mulroney's re-election bus! Political errand boys aside, we think that, in the case of the "YES" stand of Tomas D'Aquino & the scare mongering of the Big Banks are far more telling signs of whose interests this Deal speaks to.

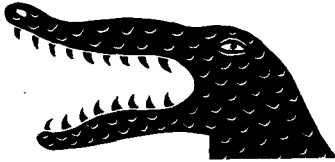
B. "But you'd be saying 'NO' to Quebec & Native Peoples"

Our Coalition fully supports the right to self-determination of Quebec & the Native Peoples. We have no intention of saying "NO" to them & note the extent to which they are questioning & even rejecting the Accord. You don't have to be a bigot to want to defend social programs & other rights. In fact, this is normally the role of those who would most readily

reject anglo chauvinism & colonial bias.
C. "But a "NO" vote will destroy Canada
(if not end the world)

This is the cheapest of all the tactics being used. From Mulroney's infamous "enemies of Canada" remark, through Weiner's brandishing of a passport, to Valcourt's "dark future", the backers of the Deal pile on the hysteria. What chance does anyone have to cast an informed vote (if the lack of the final text didn't make this impossible anyway) when the level of debate is so sad?

This Deal gives them more ammunition in the War on the Poor. OCAP (& ELP) will be working for its defeat.



The National Action Committee on the Status of Women says people should vote "no" to the constitution. Here's why:

Aboriginal women: There is no guarantee of equality for women under aboriginal self-government.

Social Programs: Like the Meech Lake Agreement, this deal makes future shared cost programs like a national system of child care a virtual impossibility. Provinces will be able to opt out of new shared cost programs with compensation, resulting in a patchwork of programs across the country.

Behind closed doors & at the last minute the First Ministers introduced an entirely new limitation on federal spending. This threatens new & existing social programs including medicare & a future national program against male violence.

First Ministers, not the federal Parliament, will set national objectives. These federal policies will have to respect provincial priorities which could include extra billing by doctors & user fees.



The Charter of Rights & Freedoms: The new Canada Clause strengthens the rights of governments at the expense of the rights of individuals & disadvantaged groups.

The Canada Clause sets out a hierarchy of rights. As it currently reads, Canadians & their governments are required to be committed to minority language rights. Only Canadians are required to be committed to the rights of women & racial minorities. No one is required to be committed to the rights of disabled people, lesbians and gay men.

The Canada Clause amounts to a constitutional direction to the courts to interpret & balance rights differently than before 1982. This weakens the rights of women, minorities & particularly lesbians & gays & people with disabilities (Editor's note: and poor people too).

Democratic representation for women & minorities in a new Senate: NAC argued for a system of proportional representation designed to guarantee gender equality & minority representation.

While some provinces have promised gender equity, each gov't can decide how its senators can be elected or chosen. There are no guarantees of representation for women or minorities.

These points were raised at the NAC meeting in Vancouver on Sept. 20th:

1. Sixty items are still to be negotiated.
2. We won't have the complete legal text before the referendum.
3. Provinces will be able to negotiate separate deals with the feds. This could further erode national programs and standards.
4. A "no" vote could help make Mulroney really unelectable.

BIG
MERCHANT WISDOM

Big Mouth Asshole favoured trade
Never thought how things are made
Up and down the land he went
On maximizing profit bent.

Back and forth across the seas
Seeking cash and making pleas
Here and there and everywhere
For investors, loans and wares..

Tom, the worker, laboured long
Did his job, and got his pay
Never thought what could belong
To himself, or in what way.

Side by side, these two were seen
One for profit, one to make.
Big Mouth didn't have the brain
To see in Tom a running mate.

Tom, too slow to think it out
Felt he couldn't do without
Big Mouth's endless travelling
So, he fell to grovelling:

"Please be kind to me," he said,
"Let me have a home, a bed,"
Knowing not that what he made
Is the only source of trade.

What can Big Mouth buy and sell
If Tom just stops from working well?

Bea Ferneyhough

THEY'RE GETTING BIGGER

I bought my TV in a second-hand shop
Where the repairman said
"There's all new wiring in there
Because of the cockroaches
That were living on the wires"

The other day I took the TV back
He hadn't removed the cockroaches
"They're big and fat from eating
The new stuff around the wiring
And this time I want my TV
sprayed"

Dora Sanders

Editor,

This is in regard to the David Milgaard story in today's Province.

I have a real problem about his mother pleading his case about his drinking problem. In the paper it stated that David was 40 years old. He'd been in jail for 23 of those 40 years.

Upon release, IF David wanted help from the government, about fitting into this society, I believe that it was up to him to have asked for help.

There are many outlets here in Vancouver, and where his mother lives. Help is there; all David needs to do is ask, not for his mother to plead his case. Blaming does not help one's needs, unless they're going to accept their own actions. As well as doing something about it, dealing with it now can be so helpful to one's self.

An Acquaintance, M. Prevost.

Changing Times

Times are so corrupt
That Beelzebub has sent envoys
To learn business management
Hell is accumulation
Now and forever
Accumulation without end.

We have been pushed to the periphery
But the periphery is not the edge
Tora has said it
The periphery is at the centre
And that is where we are.

The spiritual is political
Make no mistake
Thy Kingdom Come doesn't mean
When we're feeling better
Or when times are more auspicious
It means now.

Sandy Cameron

I know I am here because I hear
the loud monday of the world
waking brutalized
beneath the constant sound of a bell
a black iron bell in the form of a woman
forever ringing.

SINCE MONTREAL

Dan Feeney



Readers,

A 'letter to the Editor' came in from Don Larson. Most of it was repetition of the contents of his last 3 or 4 letters.

- alcohol & prostitution & pedophiles will accompany a 2nd convention centre & cruise ship piers near Crab Park;
- warships & personnel with bad behaviour;
- put piers on west side of Canada Place;
- non-sensitivity to local concerns will destroy local use of the park;
- Port isn't allowing independent ecological or social impact studies.

New in this letter were words of David Suzuki: "Economics & the environment can not be viewed as mutually exclusive or competing because they are interlinked and interdependent. It is absurd to suggest we can only afford a clean environment when the economy is strong because the two can not be separated this way."

"The ecosystem approach also dictates the waterfront cannot be administered in bits and pieces within different political jurisdictions & bureaucratic subdivisions. It has to be treated as a complete entity and within a perspective of very long time periods." Larson attributes this to Suzuki in connection to Toronto's waterfront development & concludes that "this (holistic approach) is not happening in Vancouver.. our park is being sold out."

Address to Council Committee on Planning and the Environment

I will confine my remarks to those recommendations in the Director of Planning's report pertaining to the initiation of a development process for the central waterfront. Essentially I think the process presented is a workable one subject to the following concerns:

1. that the proposed mediation/arbitration panel members be sensitive to the needs & expectations of the adjacent community, which contains a substantial residential community as well as commercial interests;
2. that the City undertake a review thru a consultation process with the adjacent community to assess priorities before entering into the "cooperative planning process" with the Port;
3. that the "protection of the national interest", in relation to the use of the central waterfront area, be re-evaluated with the inclusion of interests other than those specifically related to Port purposes;
4. that an assessment of requirements for view preservation be undertaken in

- light of possible effects on adjacent park & housing;
5. that improvement of water quality and other restorative environmental impact be a primary consideration at all stages of process;
 6. that maximum earthquake protection standards be used.

By KEN LYOTIER

HUONG

a wind was grinding the villages into dust
daily, news arrived
of the lost colonies of ourselves

beyond the horizon, lightning cracked
its white sheets
the migraine of potential
wrong stormed toward us
like a frenzy of stars

branches waved feverishly on the shore
shaken with the thunder of old arrivals
half of them vanished into the sun
while we watched from the beach
thinking armadas

there is a black work at the bottom
of night, a name for its dead
no one knows
history asleep in sickness & the sweat
of madness, the simply terrified
who remember running from flames
only to be nearly drowned

a reality like that
silences. I was scared
to death just to talk to her
I kept thinking the war
would break out of her
graphic, unbalanced
gargantuan scale of things
something like a camp
squatting in the ground like history

I am haunted by the vacancies
her eyes made
the silent O in hung
mouth ringing
unspeakable gestures.

Dan Feeney



Politics Not Dead Yet

I have no quarrel with Tora's analysis of the decline of North American society. We live not only with a market economy but in a market society. Relationships are defined in market terms. Money markets are replacing what North Americans call democracy, as Tora says. The growth of transnational corporations is replacing local cultures & local politics with economic policies that support "the corporate agenda" & its dynamic of accumulation. Democracy is dead & politics is a dead horse, Tora concludes.

I disagree with Tora's conclusion that politics is a dead horse. First of all politics is about how we manage our relationships in community & in the world. It is an expression of who we are, and just because transnational politics is dominated by huge corporations, it does not mean that we have to abandon hope.

Tora is one of the most political (and spiritual) persons I know. Every line he writes is political in the sense that it comes from his profound concern about what it means to be a human being & what a human being is up against. His writing brings hope because it suggests that there is a vision of the world truer to our nature than the nightmare vision of corporate capitalism.

Politics is far more than political parties, elections, or referendums. The peace movement, environmental movement, & feminist movement (that has done much to show

men that they don't have to be stuck with debilitating definitions either) are important political expressions for our time.

And the times are changing. Maybe the corporate capitalism of the west is about to collapse as the Stalinist communism of the east collapsed. Millions of people around the world are searching for something better than a society defined by rich people who would never fit through the eye of a needle. Most of the "advocates" that Tora refers to in one of his articles are among those caring people. They, like Tora himself, have found the courage to fight back, no matter how insignificant or absurd their endeavours seem to be. If they didn't resist, bravely trying to keep the idea of justice alive in spite of everything, the corrosive powers of profit and accumulation would destroy hope completely.

So politics is not dead because caring human beings are not dead. There is a stirring in the night as people prepare to embark on a dark sea. Underneath the ravings of our political & economic masters, a terrible silence is growing...an expectation. Politics is not dead. It is changing its skin.

By SANDY CAMERON

BCCPD says "no" to Charlottetown deal -

The Board of the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities is urging people with disabilities to vote against the accord.

"It was with sheer disbelief that I heard that people with disabilities had been dropped from the Canada Clause," said Mary Williams, Vice-President of the Coalition & chief spokesperson on the constitution. "The initial shock was further compounded when I read the rest of the proposals. It is no better than the Meech Lake Accord - the threats to new & existing social programs are virtually the same & women with disabilities see erosion of their rights."

The Coalition intends to launch an intensive campaign to educate its members on why the present deal can't be supported.

"We won't be intimidated into silence," said Williams. "We are assuming we still

Child of the street
excited by the lights
Turned on by the freedom
from do's and don'ts

Free at last

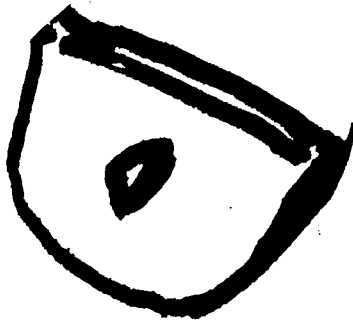
To sleep in the cold
To be hassled by creeps
To come out of a stone
To feel hunger and pain
When the lights go out
and the people - all gone
Waiting the dawn
on a bug-infested bed
Sleeping in doorways
No change of clothes
One second a tough guy
The next minute a child
Can you really blame me
for wanting you safe
from the cold, the creeps
and the dangers you face
How can I not care what you do
Child of the street) I care I do.

Sheila Baxter



live in a democracy & that we can create some open, respectful debate on this deal. The gov't has even refused to release the (complete) legal text of the agreements before the referendum. It's absurd."

Williams also stated that the Coalition would not be labelled "anti-French" or "un-Canadian". "The Coalition is on record supporting Quebec's distinct society as well as aboriginal self-government."



THE OWL WHO WAS GOD

Once upon a starless midnight there was an owl who sat on the branch of an oak tree. Two ground moles tried to slip quietly by, unnoticed.

"You!" said the owl.

"Who?" they quavered in fear & astonishment, for they could not believe that it was possible for anyone to see them in that thick darkness.

"You two!" said the owl.

The moles hurried away & told the other creatures of the field & forest that the owl was the greatest & wisest of all animals, because he could see in the dark &

answer any question. "I'll see about that" said a secretary bird, & he called on the owl one night when it was again very dark.

"How many claws am I holding up?"

"Two," said the owl, & that was right.

"Why does a lover call on his love?"

"To woo," said the owl.

The secretary bird hastened back to the other creatures & reported that the owl was indeed the greatest & wisest animal in the world, because he could see in the dark & answer any question.

"Can he see in the daytime, too?" asked a red fox. "Yes," echoed a dormouse & a French poodle, "Can he see in the daytime too?" All the other creatures laughed at this silly question, and they set upon the fox & his friends & drove them out of the region. Then they sent a messenger to the owl & asked him to be their leader.

When the owl appeared among the animals it was high noon & the sun was shining brightly. He walked very slowly, which gave him an appearance of great dignity & he peered about him with large staring eyes which gave him an air of tremendous importance.

"He's God!" screamed a Plymouth Rock hen & the others took up the cry "He's God!"

So they followed him wherever he went & when he began to bump into things they began to bump into things too. Finally he came to a concrete highway & he started up the middle of it & all the other creatures followed him.

Presently a hawk, who was acting as out-rider, observed a truck coming at them at 50 miles an hour. He reported to the secretary bird & the bird reported to the owl.

"There's danger ahead," said the bird.

"To woo?" said the owl.

"Aren't you afraid?" asked the bird.

"Who?" said the owl calmly, for he could not see the truck.

"He's God!" cried all the creatures again & they were still crying "He's God!" when the truck hit them & ran them down. Some of the animals were merely injured, but most of them, including the owl, were killed.

Moral: You can fool too many of the people too much of the time.

For Liz at Riverview

Those adventures now are words
in someone else's mouth,
distant temples bleeding thru the blonde
distraction. Forgetfulness is a series
of shocks, of nights,
each thinner than the last;
finally invisible, ~~one solid block of space~~
the size of a fist, raised
20 years against the indescribable
fraud of identity. You are a sound
beaten from the flesh, an ache,
a bar of silence where the light
falls like static. A broken syllable.

The institution shrinks from the road.
Black-limbed, gnarled trees embrace
absence crookedly, a kind of dark
imperishable lightning. The hills
seem to breed weather, desperate
to vanish, an involuntary proliferation of
algebras for the impenetrable relief.
As if an equation could lead you
like a thread thru the tragedy
of your swollen thunder.

We shall find the unpleasant now
at every corner, in every station
drinking their sugary indispositions
like medication, reeling off
their imported plans for love,
for community, for the hidden
wave that does not brush them
nameless to their drowning. And when
the echo of the halls has died,
the wards closed, autumn done,
may we hear your song again
though winter and war come.

Dan Feeney



Well, I'm almost finished a new book.
It'll be out in the spring. It's called
"A Child Is Not A Toy". In it, children
themselves speak out against poverty &
say in their own words how being poor af-
fects their lives.

I didn't apply for any grants to fund
research, but worked with the people who
speak out in the book's pages. Expenses
have to be kept to the absolute minimum
when I have to cover mine out of my wel-
fare cheque..and this way people don't

mistake me for some 'professional' who is
playing a role to get a story.

New Star Books pays me \$100 a month in
royalties for No Way To Live and Under The
Viaduct _ I get 10% of the money books
are sold for - then the \$100 a month is
paid until the total is paid. You don't
get rich writing books about social condi-
tions but I'm not looking to get rich.
Having a little extra is 'fun'! Thanks to
all my wonderful buddies at Carnegie.

Sheila Baxter

PETITION

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT recent measures adopted by Parliament to limit transfer payments to the Provinces for social programs are resulting in reductions in individual entitlements under these programs;

THAT these measures are slowly destroying the social fabric that holds us together and makes us proud to be Canadians;

THAT there is **NO** need for these measures since the cost of social programs can be borne by our economy if Parliament chooses to give the highest priority to the maintenance and improvement of Canada's social programs;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon Parliament to make a clear and tangible commitment to safeguard Canada's social programs, (i.e., health care, educational support, social assistance, Family Allowance, Old Age Security Pension and Unemployment Insurance), by enshrining the basic principles and values of these programs in the fundamental laws of Canada, namely the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[NOTE: All signers must be of voting age. Your signature must be legible to be counted. For additional copies, please photocopy petition onto paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches or 8 1/2 x 14 inches, or write to **One Voice**.]

Signature

(Sign your own name. Do not print.)

Address

(Give your full home address, or simply your city and province.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

RETURN TO:

One Voice, Canadian Seniors Network, 1005 - 350 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON. K1R 7S8

SEPTEMBER 21, 1992

WORLD BUSINESS

ONE AMERICA

The North American free-trade pact may be just the first step toward a hemispheric bloc

The super-rich elite, the owners/shareholders/executives of transnational interests, have an agenda. The Wall Street Journal depiction is a sample of the corporate agenda. Nothing is said of the 60 million people in Mexico who live in oppressive poverty..of the same huge gulf between the wealthy elites throughout Central America and South America..of the "free" trade aspirations of the rich elites in all countries of the hemisphere. The present conditions of want are the direct result of the World Bank & International Monetary Fund loaning money to pay interest on huge debt only if Structural Adjustment Programs are followed. A SAP makes people produce cash crops & goods for export, rather than grow food for themselves...like rainforests being destroyed so Burger King & McDonald's can have the land to raise beef cheaply.

Compare the W.S.Journal picture to that of those seeing "free" trade for what it is.



PRT

We believe that so long as market economy as practised today prevails as the dominant thesis governing human social production, universal genocide is inescapable - is inevitable; and that it is approaching its conclusion faster with every passing year.

We consequently believe that this circumstance calls for action now for fundamental change to bring about an end to the facts of life that are leading us to our destruction, namely:

- an end to legislated poverty through constituted right of access by all to the means & instruments essential for making a living;
- an end to the arms race and war;
- an end to the circumscribing & reduction of democratic practice.

Our call is for fundamental change: to enlarge & expand democratic right & opportunity in all spheres & at all levels; to recognise the right of one & all to access to the means & instruments of making a living; to bring about rejection of the "market economy" which pits every person's hand & brain against every other person's hand & brain in a manner that condemns all to perpetual insecurity and warring - intellectual, manual, economic & military. In short, an end to private monopoly.

Co-operative, not competitive activity, we feel, is called for; not ruthless competition "out there" but "out there" a broadening, level playing field of opportunity for all to win, one & all, in a win-win way, as they say - an expanding & secure & happy life.

"Life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness should be our goal.

The first & fundamental necessity for survival is obviously good health, & one cannot guarantee good health without at the same time guaranteeing access to the means & instruments of production, i.e. the wherewithal for procuring for one's own personal use, food, clothing, housing & access to opportunity for self-development through study & education. Health rests on the presence of all of these. They must be available to all.

For success, therefore, in achieving a viable constitution, we must relegate merchandising activity to its rightful role as a facilitator, a subordinate & accessory in the service of production for individual & social consumption.

Merchandising is by nature & historically secondary to & attributive to production, not dominant. For healthy social development it serves first & foremost productivity & a balanced standard of living at the point of origin of production, providing a sustained & balanced improving standard of living for all according to the real value of each & everybody's responsibility & good will toward all - locally, nationally & internationally. Only so can merchandising cease to be a threat to human survival.

Recognition of the necessity for such guarantees of access to the means & instruments essential for making a living and of the socially responsible role of merchandising practice are indispensable, we believe, in a meaningful, democratic constitution.

We Canadians are the inheritors of the enriching influence of Magna Carta & the liberating impact of the Declaration of Independence & if we have the willpower, & the good will, can be the saviours of the world from the degenerating self-seeking of private monopoly & multinational corporate domination which is leading the planet to self-destruction.

People's democracy can triumph & can lead us away from self-destructive competitiveness & into a world of co-operation & good will toward all people. We, Canadians, can - if we will - lead the world out of the millenia of barbarism & into the 21st millenium of people's democracy and peaceful co-existence for all.

* For All-Canada Unity in preparation for the calling of a people's constituent assembly.

By BEA FERNEYHOUGH

DOWNTOWN STD Clinic - Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm.
 EASTSIDE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - Mon, Wed, Friday: 5:30-7:30pm
 YOUTH NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; every day 9am-5pm.
 ACTIVITY Needle Exchange van - on the street Mon-Sat evenings.
 SERVICES N.A. meets every Monday night at 223 Main.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets daily at 101 W. Cordova, 10-2:20.

1992 DONATIONS: Cement Masons-\$100

Keith C.-\$20

Paula R.-\$20

Nancy W.-\$100

Colleen E.-\$25

Luba P.-\$10

Stuart M.-\$10

Robert -\$10

CEEDS - \$50

Rotary Club of Chinatown -\$767.15

Four Sisters Co-op -\$500 Joyce M.-\$10

Tom S.-\$5

DERA -\$500

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Legal Services -\$200

The Old Sailor -\$40

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PLURA -\$800

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Yvonne C.-\$10

Eric E.-\$10

Anonymous -\$18

Ken -\$5

Wm.B.-\$20

Smithers S.S.-\$45 Roberts A.L.C.-\$30



THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.

Articles represent the views of individual contributors and not of the Association.

City Info staff can't accept donations for this newsletter, so if you can help, find Paul Taylor and he'll give you a receipt.

Thanks everyone!

NEED HELP ?

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association can help you with:



- * any welfare problem
- * information on legal rights
- * disputes with landlords
- * unsafe living conditions
- * income tax
- * UIC problems
- * finding housing
- * opening a bank account

Come into the DERA office at 9 East Hastings St or phone us at 682-0931.

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE
 DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 19 YEARS

.....happiness

I met my friend Hector in a bank lineup the other day. Hector is big on the decision-making levels of the NDP.

"Hi, Hector," I said. "I guess you & the rest of the top NDP brass have been busy for the last year."

"We've been very busy," Hector replied. "We took office believing that every identifiable group should have its chance to be happy about us. We've worked hard at that end & we look back with pride on what we've done. Just lately we gave all the women in the province about 48 hours of happiness when they believed that they as women stood an equal chance of becoming members of the Senate."

"That's certainly commendable," I said. "The women of BC surely deserved 48 hours of happiness. But what about the people on welfare?"

"We gave the people on welfare not just 48 hours but 2 weeks of happiness when we announced welfare rate increases. For 2 whole weeks, everyone on welfare was happy because they thought they were getting an increase. And the rednecks in BC were happy too because there is nothing that makes a redneck as happy as when he can phone into an open line radio show & foam at the mouth about how welfare bums are being coddled."

"So you gave the people on welfare an increase, did you?" I asked.

Hector looked at me as if I'd gone out of my mind.

"Are you kidding? We know which side our butter is breaded on. The welfare bums had their two weeks of happiness while they thought they were getting an increase. We gave the increase to the landlords instead. That way we'll stand a good chance of getting it back in tax money & the landlords have their turn to be happy."

"I've got to say you're being very even-handed when it comes to spreading around periods of happiness," I remarked.

Hector looked philosophical. "Yes. That is the NDP way. To give everyone a burst of happiness now & then. Even the shopkeepers have come into it. We found that a bunch of bums were just buying 2 or 3 cigarettes at a time. We made that illeg-

al. Now they have to buy the whole package or everyone concerned is going to go to jail. Sales of packages of cigarettes are up & the shopkeepers are having their time of happiness. To say nothing of improved tax revenues."

I thought about it for a minute & then I said, "But what about yourselves? Don't the elected members of the NDP deserve their chance to be happy?"

Hector looked grave. "Yes," he said. "Everyone knows how strong the NDP concern is about Forestry. We're concerned as we watch outfits like MacMillan Bloedel close in on the last few patches of prime forest in the province & so we've decided to take strong action."

Joy filled me. "You mean you're going to pass legislation that will curb companies like MacBlo?" I asked.

"Well, no," Hector said. "Your question about the happiness of elected NDP members... they're happy because they're getting bigger pay cheques than they ever

got in their lives before. Now we're all able to have handsome investment portfolios. The strong action we're going to take about MacBlo is that each & every one of us is going to buy MacMillan Bloedel preferred stock. As the last of BC's forests is cleaned up, that stock is likely to rise out of sight. We'll be rich & very, very happy!"

Here Hector laid his hand on my shoulder & gazed sincerely into my eyes. "Happiness can only be enduring," he intoned, "if you are the one who is calling the tune."

By ERIC ERICKSON

(Editor's note: The first increase in the welfare rates split the new money - \$25 on shelter & \$20-\$50 on support - for people who have families and/or are disabled. Increases for single people was solely on shelter. The annual tag is \$60 million. A single "redneck" is pretty low-key when the NDP got storms of flack from all of the socred ilk, just as Rae's NDP gov't in Ontario gets roasted in the press for changing the labour laws. Since Eric seems to expect miracles, this piece should maybe be entitled "Another dream I had"...)

THE RABBITS WHO CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE

Within the memory of the youngest child there was a family of rabbits who lived near a pack of wolves. The wolves announced that they did not like the way the rabbits were living. (The wolves were crazy about the way they themselves were living, because it was the only way to live.) One night several wolves were killed in an earthquake and this was blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that rabbits pound on the ground with their hind legs and cause earthquakes. On another night one of the wolves was killed by a bolt of lightning and this was also blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that lettuce-eaters cause lightning. The wolves threatened to civilize the rabbits if they didn't behave, and the rabbits decided to run away to a desert island. But the other animals, who lived at a great distance, shamed them, saying, "You must stay where you are and be brave. This is no world for escapists. If the wolves attack you, we will come to your aid, in all probability." So the rabbits continued to live near the wolves and one day there was a terrible flood which drowned a great many wolves. This was blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that carrot-nibblers with long ears cause floods. The wolves descended on the rabbits, for their own good, and imprisoned them in a dark cave, for their own protection.

When nothing was heard about the rabbits for some weeks, the other animals demanded to know what had happened to them. The wolves replied that the rabbits had been eaten and since they had been eaten the affair was a purely internal matter. But the other animals warned that they might possibly unite against the wolves unless some reason was given for the destruction of the rabbits. So the wolves gave them one. "They were trying to escape," said the wolves, "and, as you know, this is no world for escapists."

Moral: Run, don't walk, to the nearest desert island.

Yes or no to the Constitutional deal?

How should I vote on the Constitution? That's a question that lots of people are asking. This article won't tell you how to vote, but here are some points about the deal as it relates to poverty issues and issues ELP has taken a stand on.

Economic union: This is the section in the original Tory proposal that we called a charter of rights for big business. ELP voted to oppose this section. It would've prohibited laws, programs or practices of the federal or provincial gov't that would be barriers to the mobility of persons, capital, services & goods.

The Charlottetown proposal that we will be voting on on Oct. 26 tangles this business rights part of the constitution up with social rights in a "social & economic union" clause". Bruce Porter, a lawyer who has been working with social justice groups on this issue, says that this part is justiciable. This means that it can be taken to court.

"A tribunal of neo-classical economists interpreting the meaning of "unduly impedes the efficient functioning of the Canadian Economic Union" could do a lot of damage," says Porter.

In any event there were no economic union rights for business in the constitution of 1982. The Charlottetown deal seems to give these rights to business, although with lots of exceptions.

Property rights: The original Tory proposal wanted to include property rights in the constitution. ELP voted to oppose this part. It's been left out of this one.

Changes to the Bank of Canada Act: The original Tory plan was to limit the role of the Bank of Canada to fighting inflation. This would have been a disaster for poor people since the Bank's role now includes fighting unemployment. The Bank usually fights inflation by increasing interest rates which increases unemployment & poverty. This section was also left out of this round of discussions.

Federal provincial powers: The National Action Committee on the Status of Women says this section is now a disaster for social programs. There is a new section that allows provincial Premiers to restrict federal spending powers in existing social programs, such as medicare and education.

One section allows provinces to opt out of national social programs & still get paid by the feds if they carry on a program that is "compatible with the national objectives." This program could be privatized & probably wouldn't have to meet high quality standards.

Housing, labour market training: The deal also gives provinces power, but not necessarily federal money to control housing, labour market development & training, culture, forestry, mining, tourism, recreation. This will result in uneven programs between rich & poor provinces. Will BC alone have enough money to restore the co-op housing program chopped by the feds?

Disability rights: People with disabilities are outraged that disability rights have been dropped from the Canada Clause, weakening their rights.

Aboriginal rights: ELP voted to support the principle of Aboriginal self determination. The deal seems to be acceptable to the Aboriginal organisations that are led by mostly men. But the Native Women's Association believe they have lost Charter rights that they used to have.

The right of Quebec to self determination: ELP voted to support this. We'll have to wait until after the referendum to see if the people of Quebec are happy with the package. NAC says that "the right to self determination for Quebec & aboriginal people must mean the right to democratically decide their future without being overwhelmed by a massive campaign orchestrated

by the majority political elites."

How to sum up? Some of the worst parts of the Tory plan seem to be weakened or gone. These include the economic union, property rights, Bank of Canada clauses. Maybe we should take some credit for this. But the loss of disability rights, erosion of equality rights, restructuring of power towards the provinces & changes that make it harder to have national social programs will make poor people even worse off than before.

By JEAN SWANSON



I was quite surprised to read the first major advertisement of the BC Canada YES Committee last week. Their ad urged us to vote "yes" to the Mulroney constitutional deal for 3 reasons -

- it will decrease the size & cost to the taxpayers of government, with the transfer of 6 areas of federal jurisdiction to the provinces;
- it will reduce interprovincial trade barriers;
- it will enshrine social policy objectives into the Constitution.

Those 3 reasons are reason enough to vote "no" on October 26th.

The Mulroney deal does anything but decrease the cost of gov't. *Forty-two more MPs, at a cost of \$770,000 each, is the last thing Canadians can afford. *Forestry is being transferred to the provinces but the federal department will remain since most of its budget at present goes to international forestry products & services. *Housing is being transferred but the federal dept. will remain because 90% of its budget at present goes to the maintenance of federal housing projects. *Amateur sports is being transferred but most of the federal dept's money will still go to preparing athletes for the Olympics, Commonwealth Games & other international events.

There will be absolutely no reduction in the size of the federal gov't; it will in fact grow larger.

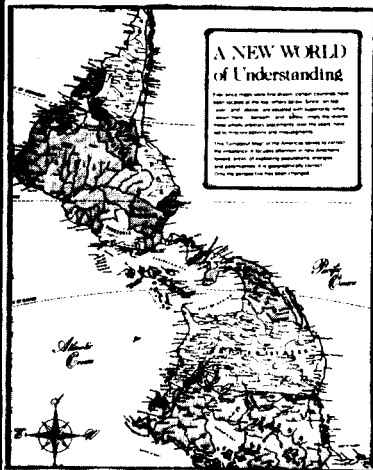
The Mulroney deal will do anything but reduce interprovincial trade barriers. Section 1.6 of the summary agreement (not the legal text) states that interprovincial trade barriers will be discussed at a future first ministers' meeting. First ministers have been discussing ending them for years. They already have no commitment to ending them. They've refused to discuss the detailed framework for elimination of the more than 500 barriers in existence. I expect it will be several more years of talk, along with the over 50 other parts of the Mulroney deal which are being tabled for future discussion, before any decision is made.

Lastly, enshrining social policy objectives into the Constitution is the last thing we should do. We all care very deeply about our health care & social service responsibilities. To enshrine them in the Constitution will mean that the 9 judges of the Supreme Court of Canada will start defining what types of programs the gov't must offer. I'd rather leave it to elected politicians than to 9 appointed judges. At least we have the chance to throw the politicians out at election time if we don't like what they are doing.

Cariboo-Chilcotin MP Dave Worthy summed up the "yes" side well when he said last month that "Westerners must be persuaded to vote for the October 26 constitutional referendum, even if they have to hold their noses while doing it."

Darren Lowe

Corrective perspective



**Just
say moe**



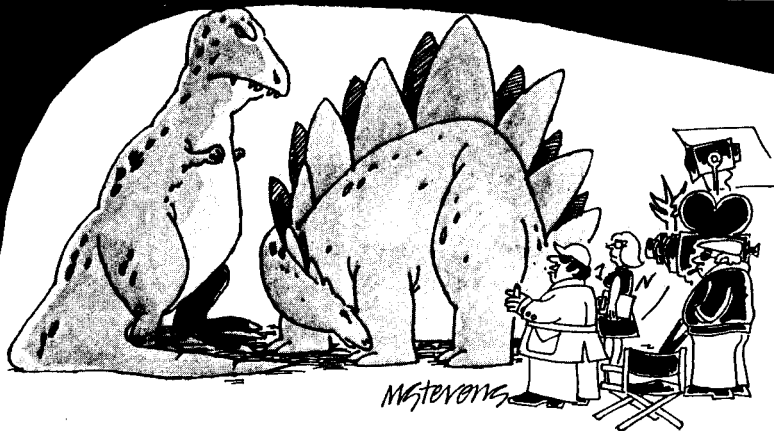
**Do you agree that the
Constitution of Canada
should be renewed on the
basis of the agreement
reached on August 28, 1992?**

NO



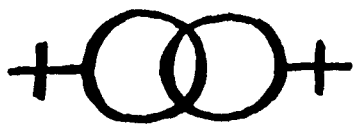
Say NO to an ill-conceived constitutional package, arrived at by an incompetent, factional group of special interest politicians.

DEside Village Voters Collective



"OK, fellas, here's the scene . . . Bruce, you're upset . . . Mario there has eaten one of your eggs . . . you know you're almost extinct and your anger has been building for eons . . . suddenly, you lash out!"





FILMS / Carnegie Theatre

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PRODUCED BY MARGARET
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